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Glenn Maxwell

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CRAMP TO RAMP, MAXWELL SERVES MAXI-MUMBAI ENTERTAINMENT

Battling cramps, Glenn Maxwell hit an unbeaten double century for the ages to guide the five-time champions home against Afghanistan

A WORLD CUP INNINGS FOR THE AGES

When Maxwell walked in, it looked like a question of when and not if. But he conjured up a superlative innings to almost singlehandedly drive Australia to the target of 292. However, Afghanistan will be left to rue the missed opportunities as they dropped him twice. In the company of Pat Cummins, they stitched a partnership of 202 for the eighth-wicket to win

ONE LAST-FOUR BERTH TO BE DECIDED

- With Australia confirming their place in last four, there is only one remaining last 4 spot up for grabs. Aus will face South Africa in semis
- If New Zealand beats Sri Lanka on Thursday, they will get to 12 points. Then it may come to NRR if Pakistan beats England on Saturday. Afghanistan, with one game remaining, also remain in the hunt | PTI

68.6%

PERCENTAGE OF RUNS MAXWELL CONTRIBUTED IN (201* OF 292) CHASE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Task force to prevent child marriages

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

WITH little help coming from the government, people of many villages in drought-hit Ballari district are getting their minor daughters married in order to migrate to cities and towns in search of work.

To prevent this, the Ballari district administration has set up task forces in all its taluks. According to data provided by officials, whenever drought hits the state, the number of such cases increases in the district.

An official from the district administration said that to prevent child marriages, task forces have been set up in all taluks and officials are now keeping a strict vigil.

Officials with some villagers after preventing a child marriage in Ballari district recently | EXPRESS

Before migrating to towns and cities in search jobs, many parents try to get their minor daughters married. When officials prevented them from doing so, many blamed the drought for their decision. "We are creating awareness among the people against this menace. We have asked people to call 1098 if they come across such incidents," the official said.

Another official said 61 child marriages have been prevented and four FIRs registered against the parents in the district since May. Drought can't be considered a reason for child marriages. It is against the law. Strict action will be initiated against those violating this law, he added.

India may take up eight naval veterans' case with Blinken

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA may take up the case of eight naval veterans on death row in Qatar with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his India visit on Friday, according to sources. Blinken and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin will reach Delhi on November 10 for the '2+2' meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"There has been a buzz of backchannel talks to repatriate these eight naval veterans," a source said, adding that India may also be seeking the intervention of other countries.

India has been walking a diplomatic tightrope after a Qatari court handed death penalty to these former Navy officers on October 26, sending shockwaves across the country. The officers were working for a company called Dahra Global Technologies & Consultancy Services in Doha before they were picked up by Qatari authorities on August 30, 2022.

They were subsequently jailed and charges framed against them. Out of the six charges, three were later nullified in the judgment. The remaining three charges carried the same punishment.

The legal team representing the former Navy personnel has already filed an appeal against the verdict. "When the officers heard the verdict on October 26, they didn't understand as the announcement was brief and in Arabic. It was only later that they learnt about it. They were deeply shattered but averred that they did nothing against the Qatari law," said people familiar with the matter.

The family members of the naval veterans have been trying in vain to get their dear ones released. Some have begun signature campaigns to make people aware of the case and garner more support, which they hope will help in the release of the decorated officers.

According to sources, the family members have been advised to sign an indemnity bond, whose details are not clear. However, some are reluctant to sign it as the bond will bind them to certain rules.

CRACKER

Ban on barium products across states, says SC

The 2018 order banning firecrackers containing barium binds every state, not just Delhi-NCR | P9

Bill tomorrow in Bihar to raise quota cap to 65%

Caste survey report tabled in Assembly; 94L poor families in state

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ON a day the much-awaited caste survey report was tabled in the Bihar Assembly, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced his intention to hike the quota cap for the SC/STs and OBCs, including the extremely backward classes (EBCs), from the Supreme Court-mandated 50% to 65%.

The decision was based on empirical evidence from the caste survey, which put the SC/ST population at a little over 21% and that of OBCs plus EBCs at 63%. With Nitish quantifying the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in Bihar at 10%, the total quota count will reach 75%.

After the announcement, Nitish chaired a cabinet meeting, which approved four proposals, including hike in reservation in government jobs and educational institutes.

A bill to hike the quota will be introduced in the Assembly on November 9. It will propose raising the SC quota to 20%, STs 2%, OBCs 18%, EBCs 25% and EWS 10%.

According to the survey, the

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar speaks at the Legislative Assembly in Patna | PTI

monthly income of Bihar's 34.13% families is just ₹6,000. The number of families in the ₹6,000-10,000 income bracket is 29.61%. In other words, the number of families with an income of up to ₹10,000 per month is more than 63%.

In all, 94 lakh families have a monthly income of ₹6,000 or less. The Nitish government is planning to provide ₹2 lakh each to these poor families to take up some sort of economically productive work. The pro-poor assistance would entail an additional burden of ₹2.51 lakh crore on the exchequer, Nitish said.

INFLATED DATA CLAIM BOGUS, SAYS NITISH

In an apparent response to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent allegation at a rally in Muzaffarpur district, Nitish said, "Some say figures of particular communities have been inflated, to the detriment of other castes. These are bogus allegations and must be avoided."

Within the SC/ST population, 42.93% of SC families and 42.72% of STs are poor. Similarly, 33.16% of the OBCs and 33.58% EBC families are poor.

In the general category, the survey found a higher percentage of poor people — 25.32% families as against 23.72% from other castes. Of the poor in the general category, 27.58% are Bhumihars, 25.3% Brahmins, 24.89% Rajputs and 13.83% Kayashthas.

Among Muslims, 25.84% of Sheikhs, 22.2% Pathans (Khan) and 17.61% Sayyids are poor.

Only 7% people of Bihar are graduates while 22.67% students are in classes I to V and 9.19% in classes XI and XII.

EXPRESS IMPACT

HC takes up suo motu case of med staff shortage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday took suo motu cognisance of "Karnataka short of 16,500 medical personnel: Report" published in *TNIE* on October 16 and said this issue needs immediate attention.

It is certainly an issue of a larger public interest, the court said and appointed advocate Sridhar Prabhu as its amicus curiae to file a formal petition before it within two weeks.

A division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit took cognisance of the report which stated that Karnataka faced a severe shortage of medical personnel. It said that the state also faced a shortage of PHCs. The report stated that the state faced a shortage of 723 doctors, 7,492 nurses, 1,517 lab technicians, 1,512 pharmacists, 1,752 assistants, and 3,253 Group D employees. Bengaluru Urban, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Hassan and Mandya districts contribute to 39.1% of nursing staff shortage.

BRISK POLLING

Moderate to heavy polling was recorded in Mizoram and in the first phase of Chhattisgarh polls. A look

CHHATTISGARH

72% TURNOUT IN 20 SEATS IN FIRST PHASE, DOWN FROM 76.47% IN 2018

In 2018 Cong had won 17 of these 20 seats

People queue up for voting in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh | PTI

Polling largely peaceful though stray violence reported from Sukma, Narayanpur, Bijapur and Kanker districts

126 polling stations in Naxal-hit Bastar division for the first time since Independence

MIZORAM

77.39% TURNOUT AS AGAINST 81.61% IN 2018; POLLING PEACEFUL

In 2018 MNF won 26 seats

- Ruling Mizo National Front, Zoram People's Movement, Congress, BJP are the key players
- MNF is part of NDA at the Centre. In Mizoram, it is part of the North East Democratic Alliance led by BJP, but both parties keep sniping at each other | P10

HIGHEST POLLING IN CENTRAL MIZORAM'S SERCHHIP; LOWEST IN AIZAWL

EXPRESS READ

5 drown as car plunges into canal in Pandavapura

Mysuru: Five people drowned when their car plunged into the Visvesvaraya canal near Banaghatta in Pandavapura taluk on Tuesday evening. The incident happened when the driver of the speeding car tried to avoid hitting a bike. According to villagers, the car was travelling from Mysuru to Nagamangala taluk when it plunged into the canal | P3

Israel open to pauses amid bombardment

Jerusalem: Ruling out a ceasefire without release of over 240 captives seized by Hamas, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was open to "tactical little pauses" to facilitate the release of hostages. He also said that Israel will have "overall security responsibility" in Gaza "for an indefinite period" after the war with Hamas ends | P11

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Gadag students lock up school over bad meal

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

STUDENTS locked up the government school at Lakkalakatti village in Gadag district on Tuesday for not providing them good food under the Midday Meal Scheme.

The school has 441 students and most of them are from poor families. The students, who staged a protest, alleged that the school authorities have also stopped serving them cooked pulses and eggs. Besides, the toilets are not being maintained properly. Sources said that the quality of food served to schoolchildren is bad and only 4 kg of vegetables are used to make sambar daily.

Meanwhile, the teachers said that they are not aware of the problems faced by the students. They will bring the problems to the notice of the authorities concerned and get them resolved at the earliest. But the protesting students said that the teachers have not taken their complaints seriously.

Students stage a protest in front of the school at Lakkalakatti village on Tuesday

They raised slogans against the school management and said they would boycott classes if steps are not taken to provide them good food. Some students said the elected representatives are not visiting their school as it is in a remote place.

"We appeal to the officials to transfer our headmaster AS Rathod from here. The officials should visit the school soon and address our problems," they said.

'Nothing done so far'

Pradeep Lamani, a resident, said, "My son is in Class 6. After learning that bad food is being served to children, we went to the school a few days ago and spoke to his class teacher. The teacher told us that she will bring it to the notice of senior officials. But nothing has been done so far."